



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farm Bill Programs

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Programs



The Goal of Farm Bill Programs

- Federal programs established to:
 - Help farmers and ranchers who want to conserve natural resources
 - Assist landowners who face threats to soil, water and air on their land
 - Provide financial and technical assistance to apply conservation practices
 - Develop and improve quality habitat that supports wildlife populations



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Farm Bill Programs

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**
 - Tennessee's largest program (10-15 million dollars per year)
 - Practices eligible on a variety of land uses, i.e., crop, livestock, forest
 - 75% - 90% cost-share
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)**
 - Objective to increase habitat and populations of early successional species (½ -1 million dollars per year)
 - Agricultural and forest lands eligible
 - Practices aimed at enhancement of existing habitat on forest lands or creation of habitat on agricultural lands



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Farm Bill Programs

- **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**

- Provides Technical Assistance (TA) to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources.
- Provides the technical capability that helps people plan and apply conservation on the land.



- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

- Encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner
- Contracts cover the entire agricultural operation across whole farms



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Farm Bill Programs

- **Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)**

- New program under 2008 Farm Bill
- Provides financial and technical assistance for activities that conserve water resources, improve water quality, or mediate the effects of droughts.
- Program encourages partnership agreements



- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

- Administered by Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Technical assistance provided by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Continuous sign-up allows enrollment of lands with cropping history into CRP, i.e., field borders, filter strips, and new SAFE program



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Farm Bill Programs

- **Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)**
 - Established to foster conservation partnerships
 - Provides funds for grants to State and local government and agencies for conservation priorities
- **Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)**
 - Partnership program intended to stimulate development of conservation technologies to address pressing natural resources



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**For more information on these programs, visit
the USDA/NRCS-TN website.**

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